

WORK SESSION OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held Wednesday, August 5, 2015, for the purpose of discussing Gateway Signage.

Mayor Jordan started the meeting at 8:03p.m. It was held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Greenbelt Community Center.

PRESENT WERE: Councilmembers Judith F. Davis, Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Silke I. Pope, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts and Mayor Emmett V Jordan.

STAFF PRESENT WERE: Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Terri Hruby, Assistant Director of Planning & Community Development and David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Molly Lester, Bill Orleans and Kathleen Gallagher, News Review

Mayor Jordan indicated there were two issues that Council needed to cover: gateway signs that mark the entryways to Greenbelt and addressing the multiple church/organization group signs that appear in certain locations. He presented a map with dots showing his suggested locations for the gateway signs.

Ms. Davis stated that the map missed the Southway location. Mayor Jordan thought the existing wall at Southway was sufficient and did not think a map component was needed there. Ms. Mach suggested a QR Code at this location.

Mr. Roberts favored maintaining a sign with a map at the Southway location. He suggested moving the Kenilworth gateway sign further south to the intersection at Good Luck Road.

Mr. Herling wanted signage that could be seen in the evening. He expressed support for an electronic messaging sign.

Ms. Mach thought the Gateway sign could be used to consolidate the organization signs and considered this the same issue.

Ms. Pope believed it was a matter of how big you make the organization signs and noted there were many organizations in Greenbelt.

Ms. Davis agreed that the monument signs should be lit and suggested three, one for each section of the City. Ms. Mach also favored this approach.

Mr. Putens liked the map and suggested that Council address locations first.

Ms. Hruby suggested the addition of a Research Road location. She noted that in the past, the State Highway Administration (SHA) had not allowed monument signs in their right-of-way.

There was discussion about the number of church/organization signs. Ms. Hruby believed more research by the designer was needed to identify options for dealing with this group sign issue.

Mr. Roberts believed the City sign should be separate from organization signs. He favored only a monument sign at Southway and pole mounted signs at the other locations.

Ms. Mach believed that “medallions” could be used for the church/group signs and stated these medallions did not have to be as big as the current signs.

Council favored the addition of a Research Road gateway sign. There was discussion of moving the Kenilworth sign to the intersection at Good Luck. Ms. Mach reiterated the need for three signs, consistent with the City’s policy.

Ms. Hruby summarized the history since 2000 when the City contracted with Sharon Bradley. She reported that Council had previously approved the art deco design. She summarized staff’s current thinking was that signage should be simple and that a map component was outdated given today’s technology. She also indicated QR Codes are on the way out.

Council discussed the pole mounted sign design. For the ground mounted brick sign design, there was opposition to the cap on the sign.

Ms. Pope wanted to explore if there were any updated design ideas that should be considered.

There was discussion of lighting options for the monument signs.

Mr. Roberts favored a simple pole sign.

Mr. Herling asked about signage as drivers are coming off of the Parkway.

Mr. Roberts believed the pole signs should be boundary markers and noted that many of the exit signs off the Parkway already indicated “Greenbelt”.

Mayor Jordan liked the pole mounted sign design. Staff suggested the next step be returning to the designer and asking her to update the designs and get cost estimates.

A majority of Council did not want to include medallions. Staff suggested asking Ms. Bradley to look at this issue to see how it could be addressed.

Ms. Davis suggested removing the 75th Anniversary signs to help address the concern about too many signs.

Mayor Jordan summarized that staff would verify the map locations and available right-of-ways, and get Ms. Bradley to update the designs and develop cost estimates

Information Items

Ms. Davis wanted to add "Letter of inquiry to the Board of Elections in Prince George's County" to the August 10 agenda. Mayor Jordan reported on a call from Council Member Turner who had heard the City might lose the funding for the school resource officer. Mayor Jordan suggested sending a letter to County Executive Baker and asked that this be added to the August 10 agenda.

The meeting ended at 9:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*David E. Moran
Assistant City Manager*